

SENATE BILL 2998

By Marrero

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 40,
Chapter 20, Part 1 and Title 40, Chapter 29,
relative to voting rights of felons.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 40-20-112, is amended by deleting the section in its entirety and by substituting instead the following language:

Upon conviction of voter fraud, first degree murder, treason or aggravated rape, it shall be the judgment of the court that the defendant be infamous and be immediately disqualified from exercising the right of suffrage. No person so convicted shall be disqualified to testify in any action, civil or criminal, by reason of having been convicted of any felony, and the fact of conviction for any felony may only be used as a reflection upon the person's credibility as a witness.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 40-20-113, is amended by deleting the section in its entirety and by substituting instead the following language:

The clerks of the criminal and circuit courts shall ascertain from every person convicted of an infamous crime as defined in § 40-20-112 whether or not the person is a registered voter. If it is determined the person is a registered voter, the clerk shall notify the county election commission of the county in which the person is registered on a form to be furnished by the state coordinator of elections.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 40-29-204, is amended by deleting subdivision (3) in its entirety and by adding the following language as a new subdivision (3):

(3) Except for a person convicted of voter fraud, first degree murder, treason or aggravated rape, any person convicted of a felony shall be entitled to vote in any election even if, on election day or during the period for early voting provided by § 2-6-

102, the person is serving a sentence of incarceration for the felony. While serving a sentence of incarceration for a felony, such person shall be allowed to vote by absentee ballot.

SECTION 4. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.